THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is estimated that about 20,000 corneas are being collected every year in the country. Out of these about 60% corneas are used for restoring sight of corneal blind and remaining are being used for therapeutic, research and laboratory purposes. To increase the rate of utilization of available corneas, prompt removal and transplantation of donated eyes and modern methods of preservation (like M.K. medium) are advocated.

Amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

1537. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce some amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to make it stronger to deal with the spurious drugs manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the gravity of the menace of spurious drugs, Govt. of India has set up an Expert Committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR and Secretary to Govt. of India, to look into the various issues related to Drugs Control Administration including the matter of effectively tackling the problem of spurious drugs and making suitable recommendations including changes in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Central Council of Indian Medicine

1538. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Council of Indian Medicine